

To William Pyne.

Sunday. [Feb. 19,
1837.]

DEAR P,

I enclose the bill, which I hope will be all right. Your letter is gloomy, but yesterday was Spring and to-day is Winter, and Tuesday may therefore bring sunshine, both moral and physical.

I assure you the trouble, the harass and anxiety, which you must experience in all this, is not the least part of my afflictions : and, indeed, I know not how I can repay you.

I have only 150 pages, or less, of ray book to finish, which I ought to canter through in the remainder of the month with ease, but I find it difficult to command the Muse amid all these vexations. The form of Davis, or the unknown visage of G-green, mixed themselves up, by some damnable process, with the radiant countenance of my heroine, and though visions of spunging houses might have been in keeping with the last vol. of *Henrietta Temple*, they do not accord quite so well with the more ethereal scenes of the fair *Venetia*. Nevertheless, I have contrived to write, and I hope my inspiration has not been much diluted by their distractions, but I am a little nervous.

I long to be in town for many reasons. I have a letter from Ld. L. this morning from Paris where he has been detained by the dangerous state of his daughter, now happily ceased, and he writes to me, as if he half thought he should be Lord Chancellor before he reached Dover. I think there is something in the wind.

Vale!

He is soon in town again and again with D'Orsay in. Kensington ; but early in March he is back at Bradenham once more, still in quest of the peace which ever eludes him. ' Of all things in the world preserve me from a Sheriff's officer in my own county,' he writes to Pyne immediately on his arrival. A fortnight later the Sheriff's officer is at Wycombe, and he fears 'it is no longer possible to prevent a disgraceful catastrophe.' 'Seged King of Ethiopia who was resolved to have a day of happiness was not more unfortunate than I have been with my month of quiet. The blows have been rapid and violent.' This early in April ; and a few